

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1                   1. A method for monitoring operation of an information distribution  
2 system, comprising:  
3                   receiving a directive to monitor a particular channel at a particular  
4 terminal;  
5                   sending a command indicative of the particular channel and terminal to be  
6 monitored;  
7                   receiving contents for the particular channel from the particular terminal;  
8                   capturing the received content; and  
9                   reporting the captured content.
- 1                   2. The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify  
2 delivery of contents from the information distribution system.
- 1                   3. The method of claim 1, wherein the reported contents are used to verify  
2 operation of a user interface at the particular terminal.
- 1                   4. The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as  
2 one or more video frames.
- 1                   5. The method of claim 1, wherein the received contents are captured as a  
2 video sequence.
- 1                   6. The method of claim 1, wherein the captured contents are reported as a  
2 bitmap.
- 1                   7. The method of claim 1, wherein the directive is received as part of a  
2 regular monitoring schedule.
- 1                   8. The method of claim 1, wherein the command is sent to a remote  
2 control unit.

1                   9. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular terminal is selected from  
2 among a plurality of terminals.

1                   10. A monitoring system operative to monitor operation of an information  
2 distribution system, comprising:  
3                   one or more terminals, each terminal operative to receive commands and  
4 provide requested contents; and  
5                   a control unit configured to  
6                   receive a directive to monitor a particular channel at a selected one  
7 of the one or more terminals,  
8                   send a command to the selected terminal,  
9                   receive contents for the particular channel from the selected  
10 terminal, and  
11                  capture and report the received content.

1                   11. The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:  
2                   a monitor and control unit operatively coupled to the control unit and  
3 configured to provide the directive to monitor the particular channel at the selected  
4 terminal.

1                   12. The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control  
2 unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to test user interaction at the  
3 selected terminal.

1                   13. The monitoring system of claim 11, wherein the monitor and control  
2 unit is further configured to provide a set of directives to verify proper delivery of  
3 contents on a plurality of channels to a plurality of terminals.

1                   14. The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the command directs the  
2 selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.

1                   15. The monitoring system of claim 10, further comprising:

2 a remote control unit configured to receive the command from the control  
3 system and direct the selected terminal to tune to the particular channel.

1 16. The monitoring system of claim 10 and including a plurality of  
2 terminals of a plurality of terminal models.

1 17. The monitoring system of claim 10, wherein the control system  
2 includes  
3 a media capture unit configured to capture the contents received from the  
4 selected terminal.

1 18. The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is  
2 configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as one or more  
3 video frames.

1 19. The monitoring system of claim 17, wherein the media capture unit is  
2 configured to capture the contents received from the selected terminal as a video  
3 sequence.

1 20. A monitoring system operative to monitor delivery of contents in an  
2 information distribution system, comprising:  
3 a plurality of terminals, each terminal operative to receive commands and  
4 provide requested contents;  
5 a monitor and control unit configured to provide a directive to monitor a  
6 particular channel at a selected terminal; and  
7 a control system configured to  
8 receive the directive from the monitor and control unit,  
9 send a command to the selected terminal,  
10 receive contents for the particular channel from the selected  
11 terminal, and  
12 capture and report the received content.